

NEW SPECIES OF *VERNONIA* (S.L.), SECTION *LEIBOLDIA*,  
(ASTERACEAE, VERNONIEAE), FROM EASTERNMOST OAXACA, MEXICO

B.L. Turner

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

A new species, *Vernonia wendtiana* B.L. Turner, is described and illustrated from easternmost Oaxaca (Mpio. Chimalapa), México. It belongs to the section *Leiboldia* and is obviously closely related to *Vernonia salvinae*, a species of easternmost Chiapas, México and Central America. It differs from the latter in possessing smaller heads with (4-)6-seriate closely appressed, markedly gradate, involucre bracts.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Vernonieae, *Vernonia*, *Leiboldia*, México, Oaxaca

Preparation of a treatment of the tribe Vernonieae for the Comps of Mexico (Turner, in prep.) has occasioned the present paper.

**VERNONIA WENDTIANA** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Mpio. Sta. Maria Chimalapa, Sierra de Tres Picos, central part, N side, along ridge (between branches of Arroyo Garrobo) that rises southward toward the main E-W ridge and Cerro Picotzue, ca. 16.5 straight-line km SSE of La Laguna, Ver. (17° 07' 50" N, 94° 27' 55" W), steep ridge exposed to wind, with irregular cloud forest 10-15 m high of *Quercus skinneri*, diverse Lauraceae, etc., 1000-1100 m, 3 Apr 1996, T. Wendt, et al. 6745 (HOLOTYPE: MEXU!; Isotype: TEX!).

Similis *V. salvinae* Hemsl. sed capitulscientiae capitula parviora et plura habent, et bractae involucri 4-6 seriatæ, valde gradatæ et expressæ sunt.

"Weak semi-candelabriform small tree to 3 m high" with trunks to 12 cm across. Stems densely hirsute. Larger leaves 12-16 cm long, 3.5-6.0 cm wide; petioles 1.0-2.5 cm long; blades decidedly elliptical, widest at or near the middle, pinnately veined, appressed pubescent above and below, lower surfaces decidedly glandular-punctate,



the margins denticulate. Heads mostly arranged 2-3 in terminal cymes, these overtopped by the leaves, the ultimate peduncles 1-2 cm long, pubescent like the stems. Involucres broadly campanulate, 1.2-1.5 cm high, 1.2-1.8 cm wide (pressed); bracts 4-6 seriate, gradate, the innermost linear-lanceolate with mostly broadly rounded thickened erose apices that are not reflexed with age. Receptacles plane, epaleate, ca. 5 mm across, glabrous. Florets numerous; corollas pink, ca. 15 mm long, sparsely glandular pubescent throughout; tubes ca. 8 mm long, grading into the throat, the lobes linear-lanceolate, 2-4 mm long. Achenes obpyramidal, ca. 3.5 mm high, smooth and glabrous; pappus of numerous tawny, readily deciduous, barbellate bristles 6-9 mm long.

*Vernonia wendtiana* belongs to the sect. *Leiboldia* of *Vernonia* (s.l.) as treated by Turner (1981), although Gleason (1929) and Robinson & Funk (1988) recognized the latter as generically distinct. It is clearly closely related to *V. salvinae*, but differs from the latter in having smaller, more numerous heads, the involucral bracts 4-6 seriate, strongly gradate, with rather thick unreflexed apical appendages.

It is a pleasure to name this novelty for Thomas Wendt, well-known field worker in the Chimalapan forests and curator at TEX.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnosis, and to her and Justin Williams for reviewing the paper.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Gleason, H.A. 1922. *Vernonia*, in N. Amer. Fl. 33:47-110.  
Robinson, H. & V. Funk. 1988. A phylogenetic analysis of *Leiboldia*, *Lepidonia*, and a new genus *Stramentopappus*. Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 108:213-228.  
Turner, B.L. 1981. New species and combinations in sections *Leiboldia* and *Lepidonia* (Asteraceae), with a revisional conspectus of the groups. Brittonia 33:401-412.